

[20 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

for non-subsidised flying on Cessna 152 type of aircraft. The subsidy scheme for flying clubs will be discontinued with effect from 01.04.2001.

(c) A total of 193, 201 and 177 Commercial Pilot Licences have been issued during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively. Zone-wise details are not maintained by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(d) Pilot Licences are issued only after an applicant has satisfied the requirements laid down in the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(e) Does not arise.

### **Criteria for the appointment of travel agents**

2558. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India appoints/nominates travel agents in the country and abroad, if so, the criteria for appointing such agents;

(b) the manner in which the commission for travel agents is fixed; and

(c) the percentage and the amount of commission paid to travel agents during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARADYADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The travel agents make an application to IATA which is then scrutinised on various factors like security, financial position etc. The agents are then given an accreditation whereby they become IATA approved agents. The IATA accredited agents also act as agents for Air India.

(b) The Commission for travel agents was fixed at 9% *vide* IATA resolution 016a. This resolution has been rescinded effective August 01, 2000. The onus on fixing commission to travel agents is now on the airlines. The commission that is payable to travel agents currently in India is 9%.

(c) The total commission paid during the last three years and the percentage to revenue are given as under:-

Year	Commission (Rs. in Million)	% to total revenue
1999-00	3963.29	11.48
1998-99	3660.90	11.14
1997-98	3538.13	11.35

The above figures of revenue and commission are inclusive of cargo and pax agents.

**Restriction on concessional passengers on a flight**

2559. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when was the order of restricting the total number of concessional passengers on a flight to 10 came into effect;

(b) whether Government have noticed that this rule has affected the senior citizens, particularly of Karnataka;

(c) if so, the reasons for introducing the above order;

(d) whether power is given to the Airlines staff at Airport to accommodate more senior citizens if the seats are vacant; and

(e) the number of such discretionary quota so far released on the request of Bangalore passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) to (e) In order to maximise revenues, numerical restrictions are periodically introduced by Air India for airline staff travelling on free/rebated tickets. Air India has never imposed any restriction on carriage of senior citizens as no concession specific to them is offered by it.

Indian Airlines' Reservation System provides Multi class concept, High Yield class (HY) and Low Yield class (LY). Passengers paying full fare are booked in HY class and concessional passengers are booked in LY class. If close to the departure, seats remain unsold in H Y class, seats are offered to LY class passengers. The scheme was introduced on 1.7.1997. The scheme is applicable on all the flights in the system. In case of vacant seats, airline staff at airport accepts passengers as per their waitlist number. There is no discretionary quota as a general rule.

**Revival of minor airports in Andhra Pradesh**

2560. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of air fields/minor airports of second world war which are lying unused in Andhra Pradesh;